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COMMISSIONER

An Invitation to Help Define Our Vision for Public Higher Education in Central Maine

Saturday, October 1st, 2005

Augusta Civic Center

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Governor's Task Force on Higher Education in the Kennebec Valley invites you to a day-long summit on Saturday, October 1st.

During the day, we want the many voices of Central Maine to take part in a dialogue that will help us all define a vision for public higher education in this region. We will honor the unique strengths of the existing institutions of public higher education— the University of Maine at Augusta, the University College at Bangor and Kennebec Valley Community College—while listening to your hopes for the future.

We need all voices! We want you to attend and bring colleagues, friends and neighbors – the more participants, the more complete picture we can create for the future.

We will use a neutrally facilitated "Appreciative Inquiry" process, similar to a Town Meeting and designed to be easy, welcoming and comfortable for everyone. People have described this process as "fun", "heartwarming", "I really felt heard", "all the voices were included", "energizing and gives me hope".

Please join in a conversation with members of the Governor's Task Force, faculty, staff, students, business people, parents and other citizens. Help us design a future that meets the needs of the people here, and may even be a model for public higher education in other parts of our state and country.

What do we expect to accomplish?

Create a realistic vision of what public higher education in Central Maine can be, based on strengths, needs, and values.

Provide input for the Governor's Task Force on Higher Education in the Kennebec Valley to help shape its recommendations to the Governor and the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System.

PLEASE JOIN US - THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE!

Please RSVP to Tammy.Morrill@maine.gov or 624-6605